

School Curriculum, Assessment & Accountability Council (SCAAC)

November 17, 2015



Volume 4, No. 4—Minutes from the November 17, 2015 Meeting

Advisory Committee Members Present

Thomas Aberli	Thomas Guskey	William Owens
Holly Bloodworth	Catherine Hacker	Amanda Reed
Roger Cleveland	Brenda McGown	Terry Rhodes
Linda Duncan	Anthony Orr	

Advisory Committee Members Absent

Michael Borchers	Kevin Riddett
Helen Carroll	Shannon Treece
Liza Holland	Heather Wampler

Call to Order

Brenda McGown, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed the group. A quorum was present.

Others in Attendance

Kentucky Board of Education: Nawanna Privett

Kentucky Department of Education: Laura Arnold, Cassie Blausey, Casey Duvall, Roger Ervin, Kevin Hill, Karen Kidwell, Teresa King, Rae McEntyre, Kathy Moore, Stephen Pruitt, Rhonda Sims, Leslie Slaughter, Jennifer Stafford, and Joy Barr

Others: Tonya Bromley, Kentucky Coalition for Arts Education; Richard Innes, Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions; Renee Leach, Southeast Education Cooperative; Sabrina Olds, Office of Education Accountability, and John Straube, Kentucky Coalition for Arts Education

Approval of March 17, 2015 Minutes

After review, Anthony Orr made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2015 meeting. Linda Duncan seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes are posted to the KDE website after final approval.

Approval of July 21, 2015 Minutes

After review, Terry Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes from July 21, 2015 meeting. William Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes are posted to the KDE website after final approval.

End-of-Course Proposed Policy

Jennifer Stafford, Director, Division of Support and Research in the Office of Assessment and Accountability shared with the members that additional feedback was desired around the high school end-of-course policy. At the beginning of the new K-PREP system it was established that after four years the system would be reviewed. Currently school staff determines when a student has finished the course and is ready for the assessment. Through the Early Warning Report issued in December 2014, it was found that some students are earning credit without taking the EOC assessments. A change has been proposed to address those students that are not testing. The change would be for all students enrolled for credit to test by mid-July each year after the completion of course work regardless of whether or not they are passing the course.

The proposed policy change was presented to other shareholder groups. Many concerns were expressed about the policy and the interpretation of completing, completion and end of the appropriate coursework. SCAAC members expressed similar concerns and the need for a policy that is fair and consistently applied.

Linda Duncan made a motion that the following policy be supported as proposed: "Any student completing the ACT QualityCore courses shall take the state-required EOC assessments. For 2015-16, the EOC assessments are English 10, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History. EOC assessments are available throughout the year. For state accountability, each student completing English 10, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History must have one score, or an approved non-participation, for each of the required EOC exams. Students enrolled in a course associated with a required EOC assessment in the current school year are expected to take the EOC assessment, whether or not the student is passing the course, before the end of the academic year (which includes summer school)." Thomas Guskey seconded the motion.

Thomas Guskey made a motion to amend the previous motion to read: "All students completing an EOC shall take the state-required EOC assessments..." Linda Duncan seconded the amendment to the original motion. The amendment to the motion carried. After further discussion, the original motion failed as amended.

Thomas Aberli made a motion to maintain current EOC policy structure around testing for accountability, and to investigate ways to address any violations of the current policy. Amanda Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Program Review/KCAS Challenge Update

Karen Kidwell, Director, Division of Program Standards in the Office of Next-Generation Learners, provided an update to SCAAC members about Program Reviews in Kentucky's assessment and accountability system. Program Reviews are intended to be a systematic method of analyzing components of an instruction program, including instructional practices, aligned and enacted curriculum, student work samples, formative and summative assessments, professional development and monitoring. Eight program review audits (2 of each of the four program reviews) were conducted and adjustments were made to the overall process. More audits will continue this year. Amanda Reed commented that there was concern over the amount of time required.

Karen Kidwell also updated the members on the KCAS Challenge. Over 4000 comments were received from the online Challenge. Over 88 percent of the respondents supported the new standards. Stephen Pruitt, Commissioner of Education, said that if educators do not get the standards right, then the assessment won't be correct either.

Arts Pathway

Stephen Pruitt, Commissioner of Education, and Karen Kidwell, Director, Division of Program Standards in the Office of Next-Generation Learners provided an update to members about a clarification on Arts Career Pathways. From Dr. Pruitt: "The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) recognizes the value of arts education in contributing to a well-rounded education that results in essential knowledge and skills for the 21st century. Regardless of accountability, students need and deserve opportunities to be engaged in the arts. KDE will continue to focus on education for the whole student as we have in the past by considering all options to improve a student's experience. New standards for the arts have been adopted in Kentucky. All schools are required to provide all students with access and opportunity to engage in strong arts program in grades K-12. It appears there is some confusion regarding the use of the term pathways and the career readiness designation."

Stephen Pruitt emphasized that there is a difference in a career pathway (a series of courses) and a career ready designation (series of courses that result in the student's ability to enter the job market).

The group broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Greetings

During lunch, Stephen Pruitt, Kentucky's new Commissioner of Education, shared with SCAAC members some of his early experiences as commissioner and emphasized the importance of the advisory group.

Inclusion of Special Populations Regulation Change

Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, and Jennifer Stafford, Director, Division of Support and Research, Office of Assessment and Accountability, informed the members of an upcoming change to the Inclusion of Special Populations Regulation (703 KAR 5:070). Upon recent advice and guidance

from the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, through its complaint resolution process, the Kentucky Department of Education is directing districts and schools to immediately cease the practice of requiring that accommodations be student-initiated. Instead, districts should make available and provide all accommodations as determined by a student's placement team or Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) unless the student specifically refuses such accommodations.

Language Mechanics

Jennifer Stafford, Director, Division of Support and Research, Office of Assessment and Accountability, updated the SCAAC members about a change to the High School Language Mechanics Score in the assessment and accountability model. A Language Mechanics score at the high school is a statutory requirement. Since the ACT Plan will no longer be administered at the high school, there is no sub-score for fall 2016 reporting. There are two possible options: 1) distribute equally across the five K-PREP content areas: reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing in Achievement and Gap; or 2) distribute using the grade 11 ACT. Thomas Aberli made a motion that SCAAC support the option to use the sub-score from the grade 11 ACT (usage/mechanics) for 2016 reporting. Linda Duncan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Assessment and Accountability Update

Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, and Jennifer Stafford, Director, Division of Support and Research, Office of Assessment and Accountability, updated SCAAC members on the 2015 Assessment and Accountability reporting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 2016